

# letter from the secretary

Labor Day 1999

Dear Reader,

How will the workforce of the future look? And what challenges and opportunities will the workplace of the future present?

As we celebrate this last Labor Day of the 20th century, the U.S. Department of Labor has assembled a comprehensive view of the world of work, where we have been, where we are today, and where we will find ourselves as we enter the next millenium. We call it, *futurework: trends and challenges for work in the 21st century*.

Americans are now enjoying the best economy in more than a generation. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have positioned this country to meet and manage the challenges the global economy presents today and in the future. While the Department has no crystal ball, *futurework* offers clear insights, based on facts and figures, into the promises and perils of growing globalization, evolving technology, and changing demographics.

I hope that you enjoy reading *futurework*, and will use its ideas to think about—and plan for— your own work future.

Happy Labor Day!



Alexis M. Herman  
*Secretary of Labor*